

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

Dear Fellow Missourians:

I am pleased to present the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission's Annual Report. Missourians have served our country in uniform honorably for generations and we are deeply grateful for the sacrifices our Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Airmen have made in defense of freedom.

Missouri is the home to military installations charged with preparing America's servicemen and servicewomen for conflict. We are grateful for their presence and for the contributions they make toward improving the quality of life in Missouri and our nation. As a member of the United States Navy Reserve and former active duty officer, I have a deep respect for those in our armed services and their families who give their support to our country.

The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission looked at a wide array of issues affecting our men and women in uniform and their families. In this report the commission has recommended legislative and administrative changes in state government to assist those who are sacrificing so much in conflicts around the globe.

I hope you will find this report informative and helpful as you learn more about the challenges facing our military. If you have any questions about the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission at (573) 526-3606 or through e-mail at MMPEC@ded.mo.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt".

Matt Blunt



INTRODUCTION

The legislation (Section 41.1010 RSMo.) creating the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission mandates that the Commission shall:

- (1) Make recommendations regarding:
 - (a) Developing policies and plans to support the long-term viability and prosperity of the military, active and civilian, in this state, including promoting strategic regional alliances that may extend over state lines;
 - (b) Developing methods to improve private and public employment opportunities for former members of the military residing in this state; and
 - (c) Developing methods to assist defense-dependent communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance a community's relationship with military installations and defense-related businesses;
- (2) Provide information to communities, the general assembly, the state's congressional delegation, and state agencies regarding federal actions affecting military installations and missions;
- (3) Serve as a clearinghouse for:
 - (a) Defense economic adjustment and transition information and activities; and
 - (b) Information concerning the following:
 1. Issues related to the operating costs, missions, and strategic value of federal military installations located in the state;
 2. Employment issues for communities that depend on defense bases and on defense-related businesses; and
 3. Defense strategies and incentive programs that other states are using to maintain, expand, and attract new defense contractors;
- (4) Provide assistance to communities that have experienced a defense-related closure or realignment;
- (5) Assist communities in the design and execution of programs that enhance a community's relationship with military installations and defense-related businesses, including regional alliances that may extend over state lines;
- (6) Assist communities in the retention and recruiting of defense-related businesses, including fostering strategic regional alliances that may extend over state lines;
- (7) Prepare a biennial strategic plan that:
 - (a) Fosters the enhancement of military value of the contributions of Missouri military installations to national defense strategies;
 - (b) Considers all current and anticipated base realignment and closure criteria; and
 - (c) Develops strategies to protect the state's existing military missions and positions in the state to be competitive for new and expanded military missions;
- (8) Encourage economic development in this state by fostering the development of industries related to defense affairs.



MEMBERSHIP

Commission Members

Mr. Dalton Wright, Lebanon, Chairman
Representative David Pearce, Warrensburg, Vice Chairman
Mr. Jeffrey W. Bloemker, Smithville
Ms. Loretta Charleston, Florissant
Mr. Kent D. Thomas, West Plains
Mr. Robert L. Welling, Warrensburg
Senator Frank Barnitz, Lake Spring
Senator Bill Stouffer, Napton
Representative Terry L. Witte, Vandalia



Ex-officio Members

Mr. Gregory A. Steinhoff, Director, Missouri Department of Economic Development

Advisory Members

Major General King E. Sidwell, Adjutant General, Missouri National Guard
Colonel Allen Stark, Missouri National Guard
Hal Dulle, Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission
Larry Kay, Deputy Director, Missouri Veterans Commission
Pat Kerr, Veterans Ombudsman, Missouri Veterans Commission
Robert Hagedorn, Congressman Ike Skelton's Chief of Staff
Major Joseph P. DellaVedova, Chief Public Affairs, Whiteman Air Force Base Liaison
Adam Gresham, Governor's Office

Commission Staff

Mike Mills, Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Economic Development
Kevin Stover, Sales Manager, Missouri Department of Economic Development
Bill McCoy, National Security Industry Specialist, Missouri Department of Economic Development
Michael Nichols, Project Manager, Missouri Department of Economic Development
Krista Zurkamer, Boards and Commission Coordinator, Missouri Department of Economic Development





★ MEETINGS

Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission meetings were held on the following dates at the following locations:

- February 28, 2007, Jefferson City
- May 23, 2007, Jefferson City
- July 25, 2007, Jefferson City
- October 3, 2007, St. Joseph
- November 7, 2007, Jefferson City
- December 4, 2007, Conference Call



Education of Military Dependents Task Force met in February and March of 2006 with no dates in 2007.

Quality of Life Committee met by conference call on the following dates:

- April 13, 2007
- June 27, 2007

EDUCATION OF MILITARY DEPENDENTS TASK FORCE

(Appointed by the MMPEC Chairman as an Ad Hoc Committee)

Task Force Members:

Kent D. Thomas, Missouri State University, Chairman
Dana Cass, Knob Noster School Board
Dr. Judene Blackburn, Waynesville School District
Judy Castro, Fort Leonard Wood
Rachel Wheeler, Whiteman Air Force Base
Melissa Randol, Missouri School Boards Association
Hal Dulle, Missouri Veterans Commission
Representative David Pearce, MMPEC Vice Chair
Senator Frank Barnitz, MMPEC Member



QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE

(Appointed by the MMPEC Chairman as an Ad Hoc Committee)



Task Force Members:

Representative David Pearce, Chairman
Senator Frank Barnitz, MMPEC member
Representative Terry Witte, MMPEC member
Kent D. Thomas, MMPEC member
Major Joseph P. DellaVedova, Whiteman Air Force Base
Larry Kay, Missouri Veterans Commission
Krista Zurkamer, Missouri Department of Economic Development



COMPLIANCE

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBMITTED TO THE GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MISSOURI IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENT THAT THE COMMISSION PREPARE AND PRESENT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR.



PERSPECTIVE

In preparing this report, the Commission has reflected and drawn upon efforts to obtain input by meeting with military personnel and their families at Fort Leonard Wood, Whiteman Air Force Base and Rosecrans Air Base; and by the work of its own Education Committee and Quality of Life Committee, and to a large extent by initiating a connection with the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and receiving an abundance of information and guidance. Hence, what follows are the observations and recommendations generated by our efforts and experiences.



LEGISLATION

Having identified issues, made findings and recommendations in this Report, some of which invite appropriate legislation, we call upon the General Assembly to draft and propose legislation consistent with this report as determined appropriate by Legislative Research in the Missouri House and Missouri Senate. Our four (4) Legislator members have each been provided "A Legislator's Guide to Military Children" furnished to us by the Military Child Education Coalition which our Legislator members will share and which can be accessed electronically at www.MilitaryChild.org.





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

- (1) Ensure that resident college tuition continues to be available to the spouse and eligible dependents of the military family who remain in Missouri after the military person has departed Missouri because of military re-assignment, retirement or in the event of death;
- (2) Ensure that tuition waivers exist for the spouse or college-age children of a service member killed or disabled in combat with the waiver to be based on costs at the University of Missouri.
- (3) Ensure that children of military personnel being assigned to Missouri military installations are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten in Missouri even though not 5 years of age before August 1 if those children have already attended Kindergarten elsewhere and also take action to provide that military children are eligible to enroll in First Grade if those children have successfully completed Kindergarten elsewhere;
- (4) Ensure that local school districts with military children permit flexibility in course sequences and deadlines and are prepared to adjust graduation requirements for late term transfers of military students to their districts, including the use of alternate exit testing instruments for graduation;
- (5) Ensure that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of Missouri offers reciprocity in teacher certification and, when appropriate, allows provisional certification pending completion of investigation by Missouri, provided the teacher to be certified has been investigated in the state where previously employed;
- (6) Create a voting mechanism to allow military personnel with children in those school districts to choose to vote in school board elections in those districts in Missouri, even though the legal residence of the military personnel is not Missouri, thereby opting out of their school board election in their place of legal residence, or, alternatively re-enact Section 115.277 RSMo as it existed prior to the year 2002;
- (7) Ensure that the Chairman of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission is an ex officio member of the Missouri Veterans Commission and vice versa;
- (8) Provide funding for Missouri contracts with a consultant/advocate to assess the possibility of enhancements or losses to Missouri with regard to future BRAC or similar initiatives and to pursue the objectives of the Commission as outlined in the enabling legislation;
- (9) Provide sufficient funding to the Commission to operate and function in performance of its legislative mandates, including employment of a consultant to furnish advice and assistance on positioning Missouri to retain its existing military facilities and to acquire additional missions for our military installations;
- (10) Ensure that Missouri becomes one of the first states in the United States to become a signatory to the Interstate Compact for Educational Opportunity of Military Children.



AGENCY RULEMAKING AND REGULATION

For the identified issues and recommendations in this report that do not invite State legislation, we call upon appropriate state agencies to initiate Orders of Rulemaking and, when perfected, to proceed with promulgation of state regulations to accomplish the actions recommended. We believe that many of our observations and recommendations can be addressed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Department of Higher Education, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Conservation and the Department of Revenue. Also, this Commission recognizes that it has a role in these missions by creating and implementing techniques to persuade, advocate and inform.

EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS



Issues Missouri needs to address:

- (1) Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and local school districts:
 - (a) Ensure that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provides resources to local school districts of Missouri with military children that address the special needs of military children;
 - (b) Ensure that local school districts of Missouri with military children are aware of the number of students in their districts who have military parents assigned in the district or are deployed, including the National Guard and Reserves;
 - (c) Ensure consistency with the Missouri Safe Schools Act to allow children to enroll in public schools while living with a caretaker;
 - (d) Ascertain and verify that local school districts with military children are prepared to handle the placement issues in special education and gifted education for military children transferring to the district;
 - (e) Ensure that local school districts with military children permit temporary use of hand-carried transcripts for initial enrollment and placement;
 - (f) Ensure that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of Missouri provides online resources for military parents with children transferring to Missouri schools;
 - (g) Ascertain and verify that local school districts with military children are prepared to address grading and transcript inconsistencies affecting academic standing, honors and access to advanced programs;
 - (h) Encourage local school districts of Missouri with military children to join the Military Child Education Coalition (See www.MilitaryChild.org);



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER STATE ACTION

- (1) The Governor, when appointing members to the State Board of Education, appoint at least one member with a military background;
- (2) The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, as well as local school districts and Missouri citizens at large, are encouraged to consider the merits of the Whole Child Initiative by redefining what it means to be a well-educated high school graduate in the 21st century (www.wholechilddeducation.org);
- (3) Make available to the Missouri K-12 school counseling community, and in particular to the local school districts of Missouri with military children, access to the Interactive Counseling Center of the Military Child Education Coalition through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education website;
- (4) Study and consider the work of Dr. Hugh B. Price, suggesting a new paradigm for educating students who are struggling in school and in life by borrowing what the military knows about developing young people (Center for Children and Families, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036);
- (5) Continue promotion of the Missouri “Troops to Teachers” program;
- (6) Expand efforts to ensure that active duty service members and their families, in addition to National Guard and Reservists, have the opportunity to access job services provided by the Missouri Division of Workforce Development;
- (7) Continue efforts with respect to encroachment of military posts and bases and enhancement of mission capabilities for the military posts and bases located within Missouri and in support thereof:
 - (a) Ascertain the land expansion needs of military posts and bases in Missouri, and formulate a strategy to work with and harmonize efforts with post or base commanders to accomplish acquisition of additional land, utilizing the post and base commanders’ discretionary authority to do so with federal funds and, in addition, to implement whatever federal administrative or legislative action is necessary to achieve the expansion goals;
 - (b) Determine the feasibility of creating a standby state and local authority to provide funds to use in lieu of such federal discretionary funds available to commanders of posts and bases and, if appropriate, to supplement with state or local funds, if necessary;
 - (c) Study and formulate a land bank or lease back or other land acquisition strategies providing good neighbor relations, but with controls to protect the mission of the military posts or bases;
 - (d) Investigate the possibility of state agencies or local government acquiring or protecting land needed by the military posts and bases to protect against current or latent encroachment issues;
 - (e) Encourage and promote the voluntary sale of land in public areas surrounding bases and posts.
- (8) Recommend that all Missouri high schools with military students become signatories to the Memorandum of Agreement entitled “The Guiding Principles For Addressing Issues of Transitioning Military Students” (See www.MilitaryChild.org);
- (9) Recommend that Missouri fund the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program; 
- (10) Encourage the local school districts of Missouri to participate in the Power of 11¢ Campaign.



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT MEETINGS OF MMPEC IN 2007



I. RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FULLY FUNDING THE TRUE HEALTH CARE NEEDS AND RELATED BENEFIT PROGRAMS FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan along with the aging of our World War II, Korean, and Vietnam War veterans have increased demand for U.S. Veterans Administration Services; and

WHEREAS, the Health Care System and related benefit programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs are currently overwhelmed with needs which obviously will increase dramatically in the future;

NOW THEREFORE, the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) does hereby express support for full funding of the true health care needs and related benefit programs for the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs and does urge our Missouri Senators and each of our members of the Missouri Congressional delegation to unite and take the lead in aggressive action to courageously support such funding and by their unified voice to tell Missouri Veterans and U.S. Veterans worldwide that our Missouri Senators and Representatives in Washington, D.C. recognize that a grateful Nation must respond to the needs of our veterans who have served our country so valiantly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to each of our two Missouri Senators and to each of our nine Missouri members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, Chairman of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC), does hereby certify that this Resolution was passed by affirmative vote of the Commission at a meeting held in Jefferson City, Missouri on the 28th day of February, 2007.



Commission Chairman





M M P E C COMMENDATION



Rachel Wheeler



Whereas, Rachel Wheeler was appointed by Brig. Gen. Christopher M. Miller, Commander, 509 Bomb Wing, Whiteman Air Force Base, as the official liaison from Whiteman to the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission, and was inducted at a meeting of the Commission in Jefferson City, Missouri, on January 19, 2006; and

Whereas, at the time of her appointment, Mrs. Wheeler brought to the Commission an abundance of life experiences including military service in Desert Storm; having been a United States Air Force officer for eight years serving on a KC-135 air crew; after completing active duty in the United States Air Force, serving as a civilian program analyst at the Pentagon on the Quality of Life Task Force headed by specifically dealing with quality of life issues in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corp; being the wife of Col. Robert Wheeler, Operations Commander at Whiteman Air Force Base; being a mother with three children, two of whom were enrolled in the Johnson County public schools; and

Whereas, Mrs. Wheeler, as the Whiteman liaison to the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission, distinguished herself as a valuable and contributing member of the Commission's Task Force on Education and Quality of Life; and

Whereas, Mrs. Wheeler planned and caused to be implemented a meeting of the Commission at Whiteman Air Force Base with an aggregation of officers and enlisted personnel for purposes of obtaining direct input on issues affecting military life in Missouri and obtaining recommendations from Whiteman Air Force Base personnel for improvements; and

Whereas, the faithful attendance of Mrs. Wheeler at meetings and her articulate participation in discussion provided an invaluable perspective for the Commission; and

Whereas, the talent and energy of Mrs. Wheeler have brought great and honorable distinction to Whiteman Air Force Base, the United States Air Force and the entire Whiteman community:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Chairman, Dalton Wright, and the members of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission do commend Rachel Wheeler for her service and achievement as liaison from Whiteman Air Force Base and extend to her and Col. Wheeler hearty good wishes as they move to their next military assignment.

Commission Chairman Missouri Military
Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

July 6, 2007



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MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION

MCEC™ ONLINE RESOURCES¹

Military Child Education Coalition™

www.MilitaryChild.org

MCEC's™ homepage is the portal to valuable information and resources for you and your constituents. Resources include access to MCEC™ publications, links to MCEC's™ Education Resource Center, and timely information related to MCEC's™ programs and initiatives around the nation and the world.

Education Resource Center

www.MilitaryChild.org

MCEC's™ Education Resource Center contains valuable state-specific information collected to help parents and educators keep up to date on issues affecting children and their education. From immunization requirements to school exit exams, the MCEC™ Education Resource Center is the perfect resource.

Ask Aunt Peggie

www.AskAuntPeggie.com

When your constituents have questions that no resource seems to answer, it's time to turn to MCEC's™ secret weapon – Aunt Peggie. Aunt Peggie is on hand to research and answer the parents' tough questions on issues related to the education of their military children.

SchoolQuest™

www.SchoolQuest.org

Designed for military families, SchoolQuest is a safe, secure online resource designed to provide access to information to help you make decisions on future schools for your children. SchoolQuest asks basic questions about your family and each of your school-aged children. Based on the answers you provide, SchoolQuest then presents, at no cost, meaningful facts, resources, and transition advice to help you find out about the area schools that serve the military community you select. SchoolQuest also offers an Online Library that provides resources for families in transition.



¹"A Legislators' Guide to Military Children," Jeff Clark, Military Child Education Coalition™, 2006, Page 64.



OTHER ONLINE RESOURCES²

American Legislative Exchange Council	www.ALEC.org
Council of Chief State School Officers	www.CCSSO.org
Education Trust	www.EdTrust.org
Education Commission of the States	www.ECS.org
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve	www.ESGR.org
National Center for Alternative Certification	www.Teach-Now.org
National Conference of State Legislatures	www.NCSL.org
National Governors Association	www.NGA.org
National Parent Teacher Associations	www.PTA.org
PreK Now	www.PreKNow.org
United States Department of Defense	www.DefenseLink.mil www.MilitaryStudent.org
United States Department of Education	www.Ed.gov
USA 4 Military Families	www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.org



²“A Legislators’ Guide to Military Children,” Jeff Clark, Military Child Education Coalition™, 2006, Page 65.



MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION LINKS

Missouri Military Preparedness
and Enhancement Commission

www.mmppec.ded.mo.gov

Missouri Veterans Commission

www.mvc.dps.mo.gov

Fort Leonard Wood

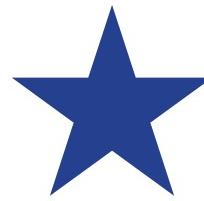
www.wood.army.mil

Whiteman Air Force Base

www.whiteman.af.mil

Missouri National Guard

www.moguard.com



Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC)

www.brac.gov

Missouri Office of Homeland Security

www.dps.mo.gov/HomelandSecurity/index

Missouri's Sunshine Law

<http://ago.mogov/sunshinelaw/sunshinelaw>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov/index

U.S. Department of Defense

www.defenselink.mil/index

Benefiting the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy,
U.S. AirForce, Marine Corps, Coast Guard

www.military.com

National Military Family Association NMFA

www.nmfa.org

Missouri School Board Association

www.msbanet.org

Military Newspapers

www.militarynews.com

Military Connections Military News and
Veteran News

www.militaryconnections.com/news

Military Life

www.militarylife.com

The Guidon

www.flw-guidon.com

Spirit Times Whiteman Air Force Base -
Whiteman Spirit Archive

www.whiteman.af.mil

139th Airlift Wing

www.mostjo.ang.af.mil/

Advanced Airlift Tactics Training Center

<http://aw139.ang.af.mil/>



MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION LEGACY

2005

- SB 252 - Creates the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission and military dependents within the state under military orders shall receive in-state tuition at Missouri public higher education institutions.
- HB 119 - Requires continuation of life insurance benefits for state employees and retirees who are called to military service in times of active armed warfare.
- HB 348 - Establishes the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission.
- Town Hall Meeting at Whiteman Air Force Base, Warrensburg
- Town Hall Meeting at Fort Leonard Wood, St. Robert

2006

- SB 845 - Modifies fees and reinstatement processes in the event of corporate administrative dissolution, in the event that a corporation was administratively dissolved due to a failure to file an annual registration report, if the Secretary of State concludes that the failure was due to military service.
- HB 1787 - Establishes the Guard at Home Program to assist the spouse of an active-duty National Guard or Reservist with immediate needs and employment to prevent the family from falling into poverty.
- Recommended to the Missouri General Assembly that additional funding be granted to the Missouri state veterans cemeteries.
- Developed a print and web document that provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions from military families with regard to education access in Missouri.
- Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission Coordinator added to the staff at the Department of Economic Development.
- National Security Industry Specialist added to the staff at the Department of Economic Development.

2007

- SB 22 - Creates a board of adjustment for Johnson County planning and zoning area surrounding a military base.
- HB 444 - Eliminates taxes on any Social Security or Public Pension benefits for those who are 62 years and older. This includes veterans.
- HB 654 - Exempts the property of a veterans' organization from real and personal property taxes, increases the amount of matching grants for veterans' programs, and establishes the Stolen Valor Act of 2007.
- Town Hall Meeting at Whiteman Air Force Base, Warrensburg
- Town Hall Meeting at Rosecrans Memorial Airport Air Guard Station, St. Joseph
- Participation in the BRAC Workforce Summit
- Participation in Congressman Ike Skelton's Procurement Conference
- Participation in the Military Child Education Coalition Annual Conference
- Membership in the Military Child Education Coalition
- Membership in the Association of Defense Communities



MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION



MISSOURI MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AND ENHANCEMENT COMMISSION

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